

I am Dr. Sharon Churchill, I represent the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation for three federal projects. Representing approximately 20 percent of the land mass of the state of Washington. They include the Yakima Basin Project, the Columbia Basin Project, and the Grand Coulee Project office.

This is a neutral comment directed to permit writers and permit enforcement folks. We request due to the significant number of potential permittees within our three projects that the Department of Ecology regional offices in Yakima, and the Eastern Regional office in Spokane, commence either annually or semi-annually meetings with the Bureau of Reclamation to discuss potential permittees and changes to permits where there is discharge of these waters to federal holding facilities or conveyance facilities. The reason we are requesting this is in the fifty years of the life time of these three projects there has been no significant dialogue between the state of Washington and the Federal Government, Department of Interior U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Water Quality personnel on problems related to industrial stormwater issuance to our agricultural conveyance – water conveyance facilities in all three projects including major reservoirs that also have municipal interest as well. Because of past difficulties and because of misunderstandings between the federal government and the state government on – ownership and water we ask that the issue of ownership be set aside and instead mutual interests discussed in maintaining water quality within these projects that meet not only state water quality standards, but also federal water quality policy. Thank you.

That's good – thank you.